

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-13, 15, 16, 50 and 51 remain pending in this application.

Claims 1 and 50 are independent and have been amended herein. Although Claims 50 and 51 have withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner, as discussed previously, Applicants request that these claims be rejoined and allowed for similar reasons as the elected claims.

The amendments to Claims 1 and 50 are believed to be supported at least by the paragraph at page 30, lines 8-14 of the specification. Since one of the ordinary skill in the art would recognize that pentaerythritol is an example of a fatty acid ester, the noted group would include fatty acid ester, silicon oil, modified silicon and fluorinated oil. The changes are not believed to add any new matter.

Moreover, the changes to the claims are not believed to affect the allowability of the claims. That is, neither U.S. Patent No. 4,226,886 (Lakes) nor any of the other citations of record are believed to disclose or suggest at least the liquid being at least one select from a group consisting of fatty acid ester, silicon oil, modified silicon and fluorinated oil. Favorable consideration is requested.

In addition, Applicants are submitting herewith a sworn translation of one of the earlier Japanese priority documents, Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-188789. This establishes an effective filing date of no later than June 27, 2002, for the subject matter disclosed in that priority document. It is respectfully submitted that features of the

rejected claims are supported by that sworn translation. It is submitted that this establishes a filing date earlier than the July 17, 2002, filing date of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0024474 (Suzuki et al.) with respect to that subject matter. Thus, Suzuki et al. is removed as a reference with respect to that subject matter.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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